

## Message Text

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PAGE 01 BAGHDA 01026 170913Z  
ACTION NEA-11

INFO OCT-01 ISO-00 CIAE-00 DODE-00 INR-10 NSAE-00  
PA-01 ICA-11 SP-02 HA-05 /041 W  
-----126276 181437Z /45  
R 170816Z MAY 78  
FM USINT BAGHDAD  
TO SECSTATE WASHDC 6185

LIMITED OFFICIAL USE BAGHDAD 1026

E.O. 11652: N/A  
TAGS: SHUM, IZ, US  
SUBJECT: VISIT OF IRAQI-AMERICANS AND STATUS OF  
CHRISTIAN MINORITIES

REF: (A) BAGHDAD 0875, (B) BAGHDAD 0865.

1. USINT CONOFF RECENTLY MET WITH ELIA AND JACK NAJOR (AMERICANIZED VERSION OF NAJJAR, AS CARRIED IN LOCAL PRESS), TWO MEMBERS OF THE IRAQI-AMERICAN DELEGATION FROM SAN DIEGO (REF B). NEITHER HAD VISITED IRAQ SINCE 1961, AND BOTH WERE FAVORABLY IMPRESSED WITH THE CHANGES THAT THEY SAW. THEY COMMENTED ALSO ON THE GREATLY-IMPROVED RELIGIOUS ATMOSPHERE IN IRAQ. THE TWO NOTICED MUCH LESS TENSION NOW BETWEEN DIFFERENT RELIGIOUS GROUPS THAN EXISTED BEFORE, AND FELT THAT THE IRAQI GOVERNMENT HAS MADE REAL PROGRESS IN THIS AREA.

2. ALL EXPENSES FOR THE TRIP WERE PAID BY THE MINISTRY OF FOREIGN AFFAIRS, AND THE NAJORS SAID THAT THEY HAD BEEN INVITED TO STAY AS LONG AS THEY WISHED. WHILE HERE, THEY VISITED SEVERAL PARTS OF THE COUNTRY, MET WITH VICE PRESIDENT MAAROUF AND FOREIGN MINISTER HAMMADI, AND MADE STATEMENTS FOR THE IRAQI PRESS AND TELEVISION (REF B).

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3. COMMENT: AS WITH EARLIER TRIPS OF IRAQI AMERICANS, SAN DIEGO GROUP SEEMED GENUINELY IMPRESSED BY CHANGES WHICH HAD OCCURRED SINCE THEY EMIGRATED. SEVERAL CAVEATS ARE IN ORDER. IRAQI REGIME OBVIOUSLY MAKES SURE THAT VISITING EMIGRES SEE THE BEST SIDE OF MODERN IRAQ, AND VISITORS WOULD BE UNLIKELY TO ENGAGE IN PUBLIC CRITICISM EMBARRASSING TO THEIR HOSTS. REINFORCING LATTER

INCLINATION IS REALIZATION THAT OPEN CRITICISM WOULD  
HARDLY HELP THEIR FRIENDS AND RELATIVES IN IRAQ.  
NONETHELESS, WE BELIEVE THAT EMIGRES, WHO LEFT IRAQ  
DURING PERIODS OF GREATER MUSLIM-CHRISTIAN TENSION  
THAN EXISTS AT PRESENT, ARE GENUINELY IMPRESSED BY  
DEGREE TO WHICH SECULAR BAATHI GOVERNMENT IS IMPLEMENTING  
POLICY OF NO RELIGIOUS DISCRIMINATION.  
PECK

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## Message Attributes

**Automatic Decaptioning:** X  
**Capture Date:** 01 jan 1994  
**Channel Indicators:** n/a  
**Current Classification:** UNCLASSIFIED  
**Concepts:** PERSONAL OPINION, DISCRIMINATION, VISITS, RELIGIOUS GROUPS  
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**Copy:** SINGLE  
**Draft Date:** 17 may 1978  
**Decaption Date:** 01 jan 1960  
**Decaption Note:**  
**Disposition Action:** RELEASED  
**Disposition Approved on Date:**  
**Disposition Case Number:** n/a  
**Disposition Comment:** 25 YEAR REVIEW  
**Disposition Date:** 20 Mar 2014  
**Disposition Event:**  
**Disposition History:** n/a  
**Disposition Reason:**  
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**Subject:** VISIT OF IRAQI-AMERICANS AND STATUS OF CHRISTIAN MINORITIES  
**TAGS:** SHUM, OTRA, IZ, US, (NAJOR, JACK), (NAJOR, ELIA)  
**To:** STATE  
**Type:** TE  
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